

ADEQ Meeting Minutes

Arizona Department
of Environmental Quality



Payson PCE and Tonto & Cherry Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site Community Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 10, 2007
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Community Development Building
303 Beeline Highway
Payson, Arizona

DRAFT MINUTES

Ref: PIOU #07-163

CAB Members Present: John Shoemaker, Sean Meares, Damian Wiseman, Robin Morris,
Roger Hattrup, Diane Sexton

CAB Members Absent:

ADEQ Staff in Attendance: Chris Gamache, Project Manager

Members of the Public Present: Dorothy Ehrig, Shirely McQeary, Gary Bedsworth

The following matters were discussed, considered, or decided at the meeting:

1. Welcome and Introductions-

Mr. Robin Morris called the meeting to order. Introductions were conducted of attendees as listed in these minutes.

2. Discussion and Possible Voting on CAB Co-Chairs

Mr. Morris announced that he is resigning from the CAB Co-Chair position due to health concerns. Mr. Morris discussed his tenure with the CAB and opened the floor for nominations of a CAB Co-Chair to take his place. Ms. Diane Sexton was nominated by Mr. Morris, and it was seconded by Mr. Sean Mears. It was voted on and passed by the CAB members. Mr. Gamache asked Mr. Morris to submit his resignation in writing as per the CAB Charter for the record.

3. Signing of CAB Charter –

Mr. Gamache presented the charter to CAB members to be signed. Mr. Morris discussed the charter item regarding requests of the CAB towards ADEQ, especially community right-to-know on reporting. Ms. Sexton asked why a contaminant above regulatory standards entering into the drinking water system would not be published in a newspaper as Mr. Morris proposes. Mr. Gamache stated that ADEQ does not run the drinking water

system. The Town of Payson (Town) operates the drinking water system. ADEQ, WQARF Section can not go above and beyond what the Town is required to do since they do not operate the system. The Town has federal and State standards they must follow for serving drinking water. Mr. Gamache then clarified the item of contention on the charter and explained the history of the concerns. Mr. Gamache reminded the CAB a request was made at the last meeting to bring a request to Mr. Qwens regarding this issue, and Mr. Gamache stated that request is in the Division Director's office.

Ms. Sexton clarified that the Board can take actions on their own, above and beyond ADEQ's realm, regarding public notification, etc. Mr. Gamache agreed.

Mr. Gamache offered to put together a list of the compounds the town is required to test for and the reporting limits for each contaminant. Mr. Gamache also commented about the extra repository contents now available for public viewing.

Mr. Wiseman asked about the contaminants that are not on the list and getting the public to know about them. Mr. Gamache answered saying if the contaminant is not on the list required by statute, then the samples do not have to be analyzed for that compound.

Ms. Sexton confirmed the CAB needs to know the areas regarding the site that need attention and CAB action (e.g. letting the people know). Mr. Shoemaker agreed that the CAB's job is to get the information out to the public and for ADEQ to let the CAB know what items are in the repository. Mr. Gamache summarized all the items that are in the repository.

All CAB members agreed to have the charter signed by the CAB Co-Chairs. The Co-Chairs signed the charter.

4. Discussion and Voting on CAB applications –

Item skipped by Mr. Morris.

5. Acceptance and/or Changes to Minutes of November 1, 2006 meeting –

Mr. Shoemaker had a correction to page 2, second paragraph, to change the year from 2006 to 2007. Mr. Morris asked for the vote, and the minutes were passed with the correction.

6. Update on Semi-Annual Monitoring and Sampling Activities and Groundwater Treatment System Operations –

Mr. Gamache handed out a copy of his presentation. Semi-annual sampling occurred in March 2007, and results will be available at the next meeting. Mr. Gamache reminded the CAB that the carbon was changed out last year in one of the carbon vessels. The carbon in the current lead vessel has not been changed in four years. MTBE was found at 0.57 ppb since the carbon had not been changed due to saturation from before. MTBE was not found leaving or coming in to the system. As a safety precaution the level for shutting down the treatment system is 17.5 ppb. Mr. Gamache reminded the CAB that when an action level is reached the carbon change out will occur with the current lead vessel.

Mr. Gamache continued his report by explaining the Record of Decision (ROD). This is the last step in the WQARF process. This final report will state what remedy has been selected and the time frame to clean up the contamination. Mr. Gamache went over the content of the report and the steps that led up to ROD submittal. Mr. Gamache hopes to get the ROD signed by June 2007, and this will be a final administration decision.

Tonto and Cherry – Mr. Gamache clarified that this meeting serves as the public meeting as per statute to obtain comments on the Remedial Investigation (RI) report. ADEQ had the comment period run 55 days, and that will end on Monday, April 16, 2007. This meeting is a venue for comments and the remedial objectives solicitation which will be discussed further. Mr. Gamache further explained that a new report will be available for public comment called the remedial objectives (RO) report after the RI comment period is over. The RI comment period was advertised in the Payson RoundUp twice, mailed out CAB members, placed in the public repository and sent to those on the mailing list.

Mr. Gamache continued by reporting on current and future activities which will include a smaller sampling event in June. The ROD will be published, and then the RO will go out for public comment. Once that is finished, it will be combined with the RI. The FS report will then get prepared, and Mr. Gamache explained the contents of the report that will also be done by the end of June.

Ms. Herring asked about the carbon vessel age and its ability to work. Mr. Gamache responded it is still removing the contaminants, and there is no age limit for effectiveness.

Mr. Morris asked if the ROD states whether the CAB continues until the plant is shut down and cleaned up. Mr. Gamache stated it does not. Mr. Morris officially requested that the CAB stay active until the plant is shut down.

Mr. Bedsworth asked why the Town is not present at the CAB meeting. Mr. Gamache responded the decision to attend is up to the Town. Mr. Gamache has open dialog with the town so information is shared.

7. Draft Remedial Investigation Report Comments for Tonto and Cherry-

Mr. Gamache reminded the CAB that copies of the report were mailed to all CAB members, and copies were put into the repository. The floor was opened to comments, and any received today will be addressed in the final report in writing. No comments pertaining to the draft RI report were received.

8. Remedial Objectives Solicitation -

Mr. Gamache summarized the RO for those present. There are three classifications presented: one for soil, one for municipal groundwater and one for private use of groundwater. If there are any comments that go above and beyond those offered by Mr. Gamache, they will be considered.

For item one, Mr. Gamache stated the soil samples taken had PCE less than the standard of 5 ppb, so no objective will be presented. For item two, there is one well taken into

consideration called the McCamey Well. It will not have objectives because the well was taken into account with the Payson PCE site. For item three, there are three private wells that are impacted with PCE, and those levels remain under 5 ppb. ADEQ understands that those wells are connected to the Town water system. Mr. Gamache concluded that the objective will be to protect and provide for non-potable use (e.g. water used for non-drinking purposes).

Ms. Sexton asked why those wells were checked in the first place. Mr. Gamache responded the initial investigation showed the flow direction of the water, and the direction was in the direction of those wells.

Further proposed remedial objectives, above and beyond what was discussed, were not offered by those in attendance.

9. Call to the public

Mr. Morris officially requested that the CAB stay active until the site is cleaned up and the plant decommissioned.

Mr. Bedsworth asked for calcification of the site scores referenced in the fact sheet. Mr. Gamache clarified the preliminary ranking of the two sites.

Mr. Bedsworth also talked about an approval of a planned development that lies near the Payson PCE site. Mr. Bedsworth questioned the danger of water contamination for water delivered to the people living in that area. Mr. Gamache responded that the community will be served by the Town, so there should be no direct risk. ADEQ will discourage anybody drilling private wells in the area to prevent the effect of pulling the plume.

Mr. Gamache informed the CAB that a resident has applied for a permit to install a private drinking well. ADEQ legally can not prohibit her from the installation of the well, and ADEQ has met with her urging her not to install it. ADEQ believes the well will pull the plume towards her direction. She was also told of the consequences that will be her responsibility should pumping her well result in moving the contamination plume. Mr. Mears stated this is a perfect scenario where the CAB needs to get involved and inform the public. Mr. Morris stated something should go into the Payson paper. Mr. Gamache did let the CAB know that the Town of Payson has been informed of the concerns about the drilling of the well.

The CAB agreed to have the next meeting on August 21, 2007.

8. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:30